

CHAPTER 74—NATIONAL MARITIME HERITAGE

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§ 5401. Findings

The Congress finds and declares the following:

(1) The United States is a nation with a rich maritime history, and it is desirable to foster in the American public a greater awareness and appreciation of the role of maritime endeavors in our Nation's history and culture.

(2) The maritime historical and cultural foundations of the Nation should be preserved as a part of our community life and development.

(3) National, State, and local groups have been working independently to preserve the maritime heritage of the United States.

(4) Historic resources significant to the Nation's maritime heritage are being lost or substantially altered, often inadvertently, with increasing frequency.

(5) The preservation of this irreplaceable maritime heritage is in the public interest so that its vital legacy of cultural, educational, aesthetic, inspirational, and economic benefits will be maintained and enriched for future generations of Americans.

(6) The current governmental and non-governmental historic preservation programs and activities are inadequate to ensure future generations a genuine opportunity to appreciate and enjoy the rich maritime heritage of our Nation.

(7) A coordinated national program is needed immediately to redress the adverse consequences of a period of indifference during which the maritime heritage of the United States has become endangered and to ensure the future preservation of the Nation's maritime heritage.

(8) A national maritime heritage policy would greatly increase public awareness of, and participation in, the preservation of the Nation's maritime heritage.

(Pub. L. 103-451, §2, Nov. 2, 1994, 108 Stat. 4769.)

SHORT TITLE

Section 1 of Pub. L. 103-451 provided that: "This Act [enacting this chapter] may be cited as the 'National Maritime Heritage Act of 1994'."

§ 5402. National maritime heritage policy

It shall be the policy of the Federal Government, in partnership with the States and local governments and private organizations and individuals, to—

(1) use measures, including financial and technical assistance, to foster conditions under which our modern society and our historic maritime resources can exist in productive harmony;

(2) provide leadership in the preservation of the historic maritime resources of the United States;

(3) contribute to the preservation of historic maritime resources and give maximum encouragement to organizations and individuals undertaking preservation by private means; and

(4) assist State and local governments to expand their maritime historic preservation programs and activities.

(Pub. L. 103-451, §3, Nov. 2, 1994, 108 Stat. 4770.)

SECTION REFERRED TO IN OTHER SECTIONS

This section is referred to in sections 5403, 5404 of this title.

§ 5403. National Maritime Heritage Grants Program

(a) Establishment

There is hereby established within the Department of the Interior the National Maritime Heritage Grants Program, to foster in the American public a greater awareness and appreciation of the role of maritime endeavors in our Nation's history and culture. The Program shall consist of—

(1) annual grants to the National Trust for Historic Preservation for subgrants administered by the National Trust for maritime heritage education projects under subsection (b) of this section;

(2) grants to State Historic Preservation Officers for maritime heritage preservation projects carried out or administered by those Officers under subsection (c) of this section; and

(3) grants for interim projects under subsection (j) of this section.